

Press release - November 6, 2025



France 2030: Ifremer entrusts ALSEAMAR with the design of a deep-sea glider capable of reaching 3,500 meters



Credit : Alseamar

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Following a call for proposals launched under the “Deep Seabed” priority of the France 2030 investment plan, Ifremer has announced the award of a contract to the French company ALSEAMAR for the design and development of a deep-sea underwater glider. This ambitious project will strengthen France’s capabilities in deep-ocean exploration and observation, a field that lies at the heart of major global scientific and societal challenges.

The initiative is funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR) on behalf of the French government, as part of France 2030. Ifremer serves as the project lead, in partnership with the CNRS and Shom. A scientific user group will be closely involved in defining the sensors to be developed or integrated, ensuring that the new system meets the evolving needs of ocean research.

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A NEW DEEP-SEA GLIDER TO ADVANCE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON THE DEEP OCEAN

Underwater gliders are revolutionary tools for ocean exploration: autonomous and remotely operated, they carry a suite of sensors and can currently traverse the oceans to collect oceanographic data—from physics to biology—from the surface down to about 1,000–1,200 meters for scientific research.

Today, as the deep ocean lies at the heart of major global scientific and societal challenges, the marine science community has a strong need for a glider capable of diving to depths of up to 3,500 meters.

FIRST DEPLOYMENTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THEN OFF MAYOTTE

Once the design phase of this new glider is complete, an initial field demonstration will take place in the Mediterranean Sea to observe variations in the physical and biogeochemical properties of deep waters, and to assess the impacts of climate change. This mission will be conducted as part of the MOOSE National Observation Service, coordinated by CNRS-INSU.

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Several prototypes will then be deployed for one year off the coast of Mayotte to enhance knowledge of underwater hazards and geological and seismic risks linked to the Fani Maoré submarine volcano, discovered in 2019.

The new data collected during these deployments will complement those gathered since September 2021 by ALSEAMAR's SEAEXPLORER gliders (capable of operating at depths up to 1,250 meters) at the request of Ifremer, within the framework of the Mayotte Volcanological and Seismological Monitoring Network (REVOSIMA).

These future deployments will not only expand scientific knowledge in these key regions of the globe but also validate this new tool for deep-ocean exploration and monitoring.

The new deep-sea glider will join the extensive fleet of underwater vehicles available to the French scientific community, supporting research on ocean circulation, climate change impacts, and seismic and volcanic activity.

OBJECTIVE: DEEP-SEA EXPLORATION

The current range of underwater gliders used by the scientific community and manufactured by ALSEAMAR—the only European designer and producer of underwater gliders—already allows oceanographic studies from the coast down

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to depths of 1,250 meters.

Surpassing this depth limit presents significant technological challenges, which ALSEAMAR will address by leveraging its recognized expertise in autonomous platform development, as well as in ocean data acquisition and processing, to design this new generation of vehicles.

This mission reflects the ambition of the French government, through France 2030, to advance scientific knowledge of the deep ocean while supporting the emergence of a competitive national industrial sector in underwater technologies.

About the France 2030 Investment Plan

A dual ambition: to sustainably transform key sectors of the French economy—such as health, energy, automotive, aeronautics, and space—through technological innovation, and to position France not only as a participant but as a leader in shaping the world of tomorrow. From fundamental research to the emergence of new ideas and the industrialization of innovative products and services, France 2030 supports the entire innovation lifecycle.

Unprecedented in scale: €54 billion will be invested to help French companies, universities, and research organizations successfully navigate transitions in strategic sectors. The goal: to strengthen their ability to compete globally, address environmental challenges, and foster the next generation of industrial leaders. France 2030 dedicates 50% of its funding to decarbonization efforts and 50% to emerging innovators, with no expenditure harmful to the environment, in line with the Do No Significant Harm principle.

A collective approach: designed and implemented in close collaboration with economic, academic, local, and European stakeholders to define strategic priorities and flagship initiatives. Project leaders are invited to submit proposals through open, rigorous, and selective calls for projects to receive state support.

Governance: France 2030 is overseen by the General Secretariat for Investment on behalf of the Prime Minister and implemented by ADEME, the French National Research Agency (ANR), Bpifrance, and the Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations.

More information: france2030.gouv.fr

About the National Research Agency

The National Research Agency (ANR) is the agency responsible for funding research projects in France.

A public institution under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, the ANR's mission is to support and promote the development of fundamental and applied research in all disciplines at the national, European, and international levels. It also funds technical innovation and technology transfer, partnerships between public and private sector research teams, and strengthens the dialogue between science and society.

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The ANR is also the main operator of the France 2030 plan in the field of higher education and research. France 2030 supports excellence and transformation in higher education, research, training, and innovation in priority sectors. The agency selects, funds, and monitors projects related to these objectives.



The ANR is ISO 9001 certified and has been awarded the “professional equality” label.

For more information, visit: anr.fr | [@agencerecherche](https://twitter.com/agencerecherche)



About ALSEAMAR : Founded in 2015, ALSEAMAR, a subsidiary of the ALCEN Group, develops, designs, operates and maintains high-performance underwater solutions that meet scientific, offshore industries and naval defense challenges. World leader in the production of buoyancy materials for underwater vehicles, ALSEAMAR is also known for its underwater autonomous gliders, special forces uncrewed solutions, radiocommunication systems as well as its acoustic capabilities. The company provides a range of services, from underwater scientific studies and surveys to life-extension services for complex naval subsystems. www.alseamar-alcen.com

About Ifremer : From the abyss to the surface, from the coast to the high seas, IFREMER is the only French research institute entirely dedicated to the ocean. Our scientists generate knowledge that is essential for addressing climate change, marine pollution, and biodiversity loss, as well as for mitigating ocean-related risks. Their expertise guides public maritime policies and supports their implementation. The outcomes of their research fuel innovation, which economic partners transform into solutions that benefit both people and marine ecosystems. We don't just produce data, we create the insight needed to safeguard the very system that makes life on Earth possible: the ocean. www.ifremer.fr/en

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About CNRS : A major player in basic research worldwide, the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) is the only French organisation active in all scientific fields. Its unique position as a multi-specialist enables it to bring together all of the scientific disciplines in order to shed light on and understand the challenges of today's world, in connection with public and socio-economic stakeholders. Together, the different sciences contribute to sustainable progress that benefits society as a whole. www.cnrs.fr/en

About Shom : The Shom, french hydrographic and oceanographic service, provides physical knowledge of the ocean. It measures and describes sea levels, currents, marine sediments, swells, sea temperature, salinity, underwater noise, relief, magnetic fields, etc., and predicts how they will change. Its internationally recognised expertise informs the decisions of sea users and maritime stakeholders. Its products and services meet the needs of the armed forces, ensure the safety of navigators, guide public policy on the sea and coastline, support the development of the blue economy and contribute to the preservation of the marine environment. www.shom.fr/en